

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
AND DISCIPLINE

IN RE: RONALD L. FISCHER, M.D. : C94-206

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

This matter came on for hearing before the duly appointed Hearing Committee of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter "Board") on 9 December 1998 upon allegations that Ronald L. Fischer, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") was guilty of unprofessional conduct in that the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine revoked Respondent's license to practice medicine upon a finding that Respondent raped a female person in the State of Massachusetts. Such conduct constitutes grounds for discipline in Rhode Island pursuant to Section 5-37-5.1(21) of the Rhode Island General Laws. The State was represented by counsel. Dr. Fischer did not appear for hearing nor was he represented at hearing.

TRAVEL AND FACTS

Ronald L. Fischer, M.D. is a physician who was licensed to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island. That on 6 March 1995 the Director of Health issued an Order summarily suspending his license (Ex.6). The reason for this action was a finding by the Director of Health that Dr. Fischer's history of abuse of women, including charges of rape, constituted an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The summary suspension was in effect at the time of the within hearing.

On 11 December 1996 The Board of Registration in Medicine for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Final Decision and Order revoking Respondent's license in Massachusetts (Ex.5) for the reason that Respondent did assault a female with intent to rape her; did in fact rape a female; and that this conduct undermines public confidence in the medical profession and demonstrates a lack of good moral character. Respondent appealed said Decision and Order. On 19 August 1998 the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court affirmed the Decision and Order of the Board (Ex.7). The Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline is herein seeking to revoke Respondent's license.

EVIDENCE PRESENTED

The State presented no witnesses but did submit seven (7) exhibits into the record. Both Dr. Fischer and his attorney were forwarded notices of the date and time of hearing. A return receipt was entered into the record (Ex.1) evidencing receipt of the notice by Respondent's attorney. Dr. Fischer's notice was returned to the Board (Ex.2). Counsel for the Board indicated that he had not received any correspondence or telephone calls from either Respondent or attorney since the issuance of the notice. Nor did anyone appear for the hearing.

The evidence presented clearly established that the Massachusetts Board found, after hearing, that Respondent did assault a female with intent to rape and did rape a female; and

that this conduct undermines the medical profession and demonstrates a lack of good moral character.

Based upon the foregoing, the Massachusetts Board revoked Respondent's license to practice medicine in that state.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board herein determines that assault with intent to rape a female and rape of a female constitutes unprofessional conduct and as such is grounds to discipline a physician in Rhode Island pursuant to Section 5-37-5.1

Pursuant to Section 5-37-5.1(21) of the General Laws, this Board is authorized to take reciprocal action against a licensee in this state who has been the subject of disciplinary action in another state for conduct which would constitute grounds for such action in this state.

ORDER

Based upon the Findings of Fact, Evidence Presented, and Conclusions of Law, the Board hereby enters the following Order:

1. That Respondent's license to practice medicine within the State of Rhode Island is hereby REVOKED.

Entered this 21st day of December 1998.

Sally Jane Thibodeau, Ph.D.
Sally Jane Thibodeau, Ph.D.
Chairperson

Robert Leonard, D.O.
Robert Leonard, D.O., Member

Paul E. Sapis, M.D.
Paul E. Sapis, M.D., Member

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 5-37-6.2 and based upon the Findings of Fact, Evidence Presented, and Conclusions of Law, the license to practice medicine issued to Ronald L. Fischer, M.D. is Revoked.

Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH

December 21, 1998
Date